

January 2022

Dear Family,

Family Survey Responses

Thank you to all the families who responded to our family survey. If you haven't done so already there is still an opportunity for you to complete this by clicking on the link below:

[Microsoft Forms](#)

It doesn't take more than a few minutes to complete and provides us with feedback about how well we are doing.

The majority of responses about how we are supporting our students have been very positive. The feedback about how happy and safe students feel is very pleasing to hear. There are always aspects that are 'even better if...' so I just wanted to share some of the strategies that are currently in place just in case you weren't aware.

With the launch of the Trust Personal Learning Centre (PLC) we were able to provide even greater capacity to support our Behaviour Management Services (BMS) team last term. We ended the term with no fixed term exclusions which is unheard of in most secondary schools in the country! Our staff continue to award Epraise points to our students which has resulted in improved motivation in our classrooms. Some students chose to exchange their reward points in order to have coffee and biscuits with me, which was a pleasant surprise! Putting the Safeguarding, Behaviour, Inclusion and Pastoral teams together in one area has meant that our students have access to a range of staff throughout the course of the day, which has provided students with immediate access to support should there be an issue.

We always support our most vulnerable students and hope that they continue to feel included in everything that we offer. Despite the COVID situation we have managed to reinstate trips and extra-curricular clubs during this academic year. We do hope that the trips to Paris and Washington/New York are able to continue. I know that we were inundated with requests to go on these trips which has resulted in some students being disappointed. We will endeavour to provide all students with an opportunity to attend some type of trip during their time with us, whether this be a visit to a local museum or one of the many trips to watch a football match at Wembley.

We have high expectations of our students as you will know from the challenging academic targets that we set in each subject. We will continue to ask our students to do their very best to meet these aspirational targets! The reports that you receive during the academic year will inform you about the progress that your child is making but if you ever wish to speak to us about any academic or pastoral related matters then do email us on info@tca.shirelandcat.net and we will ask the relevant member of staff to contact you within 48 hours. We will be recirculating our family calendar again

via EduLink and social media, however, please find key dates below for the remainder of this academic year:

- Wednesday 19th January, Year 11 Parents Evening
- Week beginning 7th February, Year 9 full school reports and KS3 assessment point data released this week
- Wednesday 16th February, Year 9 Parents Evening
- Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February, February half term holiday
- Week beginning 7th March, Year 11 Mock week
- Thursday 17th March, Year 9 Options Evening
- Week beginnings 28th March, KS4 assessment point data released this week
- Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April, Easter holiday
- Monday 25th April, start of the Year 10 exam fortnight
- Monday 16th May, start of the Year 11 exam season
- Week beginning 23rd May, Year 10 full school reports released this week
- Thursday 9th June, Year 10 parents evening
- Week beginning 20th June, KS3 assessment data released this week
- Week beginning 27th June, Year 7 & 8 full school reports released this week
- Friday 7th July, INSET day
- Monday 4th July, start of the new timetable
- Tuesday 5th July, Year 8 parents evening
- Tuesday 5th July and Thursday 7th July, Year 7 parents evening
- Thursday 21st July, final day of the Academic year

*All reports and assessment data are distributed via EduLink

*Parents' Evenings and Options Evening will be held virtually and will take place using the parents evening function on EduLink

The range of subjects that we offer are listed on our website and you will be able to see the topics that your child studies during their time with us. The link to the curriculum website is

<https://thornsca.org.uk/curriculum/>

Our Programme of Study for PSHE education aims to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, teamworking and critical thinking in the context of learning grouped into three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world (including economic wellbeing and aspects of careers education).

Issues of inclusion are at the heart of competency education. Competency education strengthens personalised learning with a transparent structure that enables greater systemic and personal accountability, as well as continuous improvement.

The L4L curriculum has several strong embedded themes which focus on PSHE. For example, the first theme in the curriculum, Citizen Me, uses family history projects, religious festival sharing and opportunities to create class conduct rules as an opportunity to bring together disparate communities in shared values of tolerance. Projects like this have students and families work together, learn about each other's customs, beliefs and ideas and respect each other's views.

Finally, each year group has at least one unit that allows students to broaden their aspirations and build social awareness skills. Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that students need to be educated citizens and what is needed to prepare them for future success.

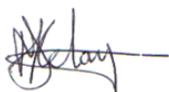
I hope that the increasing Covid rates in our locality does not prevent us from continuing with face-to-face learning over the coming months but we may need to re-introduce remote learning for certain year groups over the coming weeks. We will try and provide you with as much notice as we possibly can should there be a need to do this. The Remote Learning page can be found here [Thorns Online Learning \(sharepoint.com\)](https://thornsca.sharepoint.com/).

If students are not attending the academy due to having to isolate due to COVID but are well enough to continue with their studies, then they will be able to access all their learning resources through either the class sites or the Teams sites that they use on a day-to-day basis in the academy. If you have any queries regarding this process, then please contact the academy using info@tca.shirelandcat.net.

Please do continue to let us know how we can work in partnership with you over the coming weeks and months. I really do want to know if there are any aspects that we could improve upon so will continue to send this type of survey to you at least once per academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing our students fulfilling their potential at the end of their studies with us.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Kelay
Principal